

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

IO-13 ACDA-07 /080 W

-----240316Z 057957 /73

R 231534Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5259

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 00773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, UR, CG, AO

SUBJ: NOVOSTI REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS ON SOVIET ROLE IN
SHABA EVENTS

REF: MOSCOW 3729

1. ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL ADVERTISING MANAGER GRIMSHAW TOLD PAO THAT
LOCAL NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY REP, TIKHOMIROV, BRAGGED TO HIM
ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WITH THE KATANGAN GENDARMES WHO HAVE
ATTACKED SHABA. SHABA DEVELOPMENTS CAME UP DURING A DISCUSSION
ON MARCH 22 BETWEEN GRIMSHAW AND TIKHOMIROV OVER NOVOSTI'S
DESIRE TO RUN A FULL-PAGE PAID SPREAD ON THE EVE OF PODGORNYY'S
ARRIVAL. TO GRIMSHAW'S SURPRISE, TIKHOMIROV SAID, "THE KATANGESE
ARE NO LONGER TSHOLBE FOLLOWERS; WE HAVE BEEN TRAINING THEM FOR
SOME TIME." GRIMSHAW SAID THAT TIKHOMIROV ATTACKED THE U.S.
AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES FOR PROPPING UP THE "CORRUPT MOBUTU
REGIME," SAYING THAT THEY WERE IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE
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FOR THE PROBLEMS OF ZAIRE DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS. TIKHOMIROV
TOLD GRIMSHAW THAT RECENT EVENTS IN ZAIRE WERE MERELY A PART
OF AN UPHEAVAL THROUGHOUT AFRICA WHICH WAS INEVITABLY CHANGING
AFRICA AND TURNING THE CONTINENT AWAY FROM THE WEST. HE SAID
THAT IN "THE FOUR MOST IMPORTANT AFRICAN COUNTRIES ---NIGERIA,
ETHIOPIA, ZAIRE AND SOUTH AFRICA"---THINGS WERE CHANGING OR
ON THE VERGE OF CHANGE AND THAT WHEN THIS CHANGE WAS ULTIMATELY

EFFECTED THE BLOW TO THE WEST AND CAPITALISM IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE. TIKHOMIROV SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE ONCE THE WEST WAS DEPRIVED OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD.

COMMENT: THE EMBASSY IS SURPRISED THAT ANYONE LINKED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA EVENTS AT THIS TIME TO NON-SOVIETS. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS NO REASON TO SUSPECT GRIMSHAW'S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH TIKHOMIROV HAS BEEN ALTERED IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY FOR ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVE. LOW

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